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King's Library
microphotography
AUG 26 1942 July 1942.

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From The Librarian, Windsor Castle, Berkshire.

To Mr. George J. Beal,
Comptroller,
The Rockefeller Foundation,
40 West 49th St.,
New York.

Dear Mr. Beal,

I write in answer to your kind letter of May 4 in which you notify me of the transfer of the 2nd grant of £1000 for the microfilming of records in the Royal Archives - for which I herewith return the voucher.

In your previous letter of January 12 you asked for a statement of receipts and disbursements "when expenditures under this fund are completed, or at the close of 1942". I hope I am right therefore in assuming that what you would like to have at this stage is a statement of how the work is proceeding up to date, rather than a formal set of accounts accompanied by the receipts - though I have all the receipts under my hand here now, and could render a formal account at any time. My own feeling is that it would be more interesting to let the accounts cover a longer period, so that they will cover a wider area and convey a more complete picture of the whole operation.

During the first half of the year, then, i.e. the first six months of the scheme, we have taken 161,691 photographs, at a cost of £2,261:18:8. By far the greater portion of these have been the documentary contents of the Royal Archives, i.e. the State and the Personal papers of George III and George IV, almost all of which are now recorded photographically. We shall shortly be proceeding to record the more recent papers of the late King George V.

But the above number includes also several thousand photographs of the Old Master Drawings in the Royal Library, of which the whole Italian School is now completed; and we are half way through the English School. After these will come the Dutch, Flemish & German schools. This work is slower because the camera has to be re-focussed for each drawing. Of two small sections of these I have had colour-films made as well, namely the Miniatures and the topographical watercolours of Windsor in George III's time by Paul Sandby. The cost of these colour photographs has been £52:18:9.

Then I have paid £32:11:0 for the numbering of all these documents in series, an essential preliminary to their efficient recording; and £19:4:6 for storage cases for the

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microfilms; and £6:18:0 for the railway fares of an operator whom I had to seduce to Windsor from more convenient work nearer his home, when first we started.

The above headings total up to £2373:10:11⁴, against which I have so far received from you £2000. I am therefore about to ask Dr.D.P.O'Brien to cable for a further instalment of the grant which you have so generously placed at our disposal.

I take this occasion once more to express our warm thanks for this kind action. You will see that in spite of the difficulties of the times we are not letting the grass grow under our feet: the work proceeds full steam ahead, and I have hopes that your enlightened policy may result not only in the preservation of the historical contents of the Royal Archives (should Windsor unhappily suffer from enemy action) but also throw open to American scholarship another corner of the field of English history. Surely everyone must now feel that this is a contribution to Anglo-American relations which the academical world is able to make.

Very truly yours,

O. F. Morshead

Copy sent to Dr.D.P.O'Brien.